

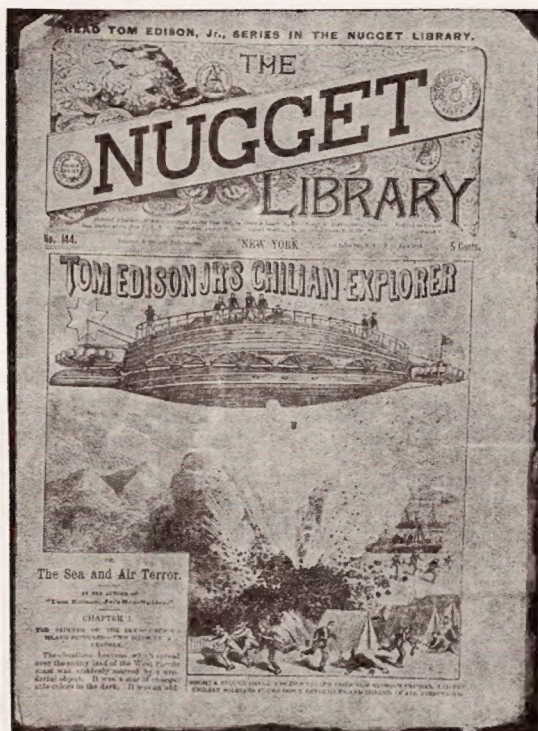
DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 30, No. 4

April 15, 1962

Whole No. 355



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES #32

NUGGET LIBRARY

Street & Smith's second weekly library. The first was Log Cabin Library. Size $11\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$, 16 pages; black and white pictorial cover. 167 issues, possibly a few more, published from Aug. 29, 1889 to Aug. 16, 1892. Featured the first Diamond Dick stories as well as the usual complement of adventure, comic and western stories. Also featured were the Tom Edison, Jr., stories.

The Merriwells — After Tip Top

By J. Edward Leithead and Gerald J. McIntosh

*(continued from last issue)

The third instalment, in issue of May 25, 1915, 25 pages, tells how June Arlington was carried away to El Caverno Prison by Felix Fortune, the gun-runner and soldier of fortune. The locale is much the same, vicinity of Santander and El Caverno Prison, in Old Mexico. Old Joe Crowfoot waylays the driver of the carriage in which June has been placed and takes his seat at the reins. A wild ride is made to the prison. Fortune outwits Crowfoot, almost killing him, and delivers June to the prison. Dick and Brad are reunited with Chester Arlington. After an interview with the treacherous Gen. Bonilla, they flee the Palace and make their way toward the prison. On the way, they are captured by Gen. Ortega's troops, Ortega being in opposition to Gen. Bonilla. Dick and Brad are compelled to be the battery of a team picked to play a team from the ranks of the Ortega troops. Failure to win will mean death to them. The game goes to 10 innings, when Dick and Brad escape and get to the prison in which June is held. With them go Chaster A. and a friendly Mexican. They are about to get June and Old Joe Crowfoot released when the troops of Gen. Bonilla appear and seem about to spoil their plans.

The 4th and last instalment, in issue

of June 10, 1915, 25 pages. The locals, El Caverno Prison, near Santander, and the City of Socorra, Old Mexico. By a ruse, all hands get away from El Caverno Prison and make their way to the city of Socorra. There Dick encounters the rascally Felix Fortune, gun-runner, who turns out to be Steve Harding, an old enemy he had discomfited as a gambler at Yale. (For Harding's story see certain Tip Tops after No. 824, when Dick began his tenure as Universal Coach at Yale).

Harding is exposed, and he and a fake United States Consul are brought to book. A final ball game is played by the "Gringos," and, with Dick as pitcher, it is easily won. Dick and his friends, Brad Buckhart, June and Chester Arlington, and Old Joe Crowfoot hit the trail for the good old U. S. A. Steve Harding alias Fortune is the only other "old character" in the serial. But a bunch of new ones, believe me, many of them Mexican generals, a bull-fighter, etc. But the prize of them all—next to June, of course—Mercedes Bonilla, the general's honey of a daughter!

The conclusion of this serial is not as flat as the summary may sound. In fact, it is given pretty much in detail because it is out of the ordinary—baseball and Revolutionists. I suspect William Wallace Cook as the author—he wrote some novels of Buffalo Bill in Old Mexico, against guerrillas, and

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Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

Wild Bill at a bullfight, in a trilogy of novels for the Buffalo Bill Stories.

The second Merriwell serial was about Frank, Jr., in 4 parts, in Tip Top Semi-Monthly, from June 25, 1915, through August 10, 1915. Title, Frank Merriwell, Jr.'s Hike.

"Chip" Merriwell and some of his Fardale friends on a summer vacation "hike" into the Maine woods and lakes. They have a guide, Jim Le Gare, who proves treacherous when a band of Gypsies and counterfeiters, with two detectives on the wrong scent, complicate the boys' vacation. Chip gets himself lost in the Maine forest and Owen Clancy is thrown out of a canoe and nearly drowns. Fast-moving enough. New Tip Top characters are Chip Merriwell, Owen Clancy, Doc Fisher, Jake Jelliby, Catfish Brown, Villum Kess. And many new characters. Let me add here that some of these New Tip Topers sound like St. George Rathborne; when he was gathering his Rough Rider outfit he had a "Doc Fenton" ("Doc Fisher"?) and a "Carl Schwartz" ("Villum Kess"?) and a "Kid McCann" ("Owen Clancy"?).

Another story of Merry comes up as the third Merriwell, 4 part serial, in Tip Top Semi-Monthly, issues of August 25 through Oct. 10, 1915: Frank Merriwell's Boy Scouts.

Locale, near the little town of Crandall, at the Eagle Lake Camp of the Boy Scouts, evidently not far from Frank Merriwell's home town of Bloomfield. Frank is at Bloomfield on a vacation from his work with the Merriwell Company in the Southwest. A diamond necklace belonging to his wife Inza is stolen, and Frank takes the trail of the thief. Near Crandall he comes across a camp of Boy Scouts at Eagle Lake and being much interested in the organization, decides to tarry awhile.

The story revolves around the Scoutmaster, Jack Merlin, and a cousin or his, Tom Merlin, just in from California, and who visits the camp. The boys are as alike as two peas in a pod and have fun fooling the boys in camp. (Having had two stories of Dick Merriwell's double very recently, seems the double business was a little overwork-

ed). However, the visiting cousin takes an instant dislike to Frank Merriwell and decides to leave camp. He disappears, is thought to have drowned in the lake when he and Jack, disputing over Merriwell, upset their canoe.

Frank is astonished when the camp chest of Jack Merlin yields the leather case that had contained Inza's necklace. But he refuses to believe Jack Merlin guilty, goes his bond and takes him into protective custody. Merry helps to run the camp when Jack resigns as Scoutmaster. Frank has a suspicious eye on one Skimpy Short, of a rival Boy Scout camp, and calls in a detective. Merriwell arranges a baseball game between the Eagle Lake Camp and the rival Raccoon Scout Camp, and during the game Frank's motorcycle is stolen. This was later used by Tom Merlin (not dead, oh, no) to elope with his cousin Jack's girl, Minnie Ream, who, on account of darkness, and their looking so alike, mistakes Tom for Jack. Frank and Detective Struthers finally catch the stealers of Inza's necklace—Tom Merlin and a supposed geologist, "Prof. Tarlton Tarbox." Just so-so. You can't always do justice to a story by a mere outline, especially when you're watching the wordage. The only old Tip Top character was Merry himself.

The fourth Merriwell serial is really a dandy, though—Dick Merriwell in Alaska—published in 4 parts in Tip Top Semi-Monthly, from Oct. 25 to Dec. 10th, 1915, inclusive. It should be noted that when the 4th instalment appeared, Tip Top Semi-Monthly had changed its name to Wide Awake Magazine. The publishers claimed the name "Tip Top" was obsolete and wanted a more lively title.

Well, the serial, Dick Merriwell in Alaska, was lively enough. We find Dick, Brad Buckhart and Old Joe Crowfoot suddenly transplanted to Alaska from their stirring adventures in Old Mexico. Dick has been sent to Alaska by Washington officials to investigate the feasibility of the Government's plan to build a railway line and telegraph system to the site of placer mining (locale of the story is in and around

the little boom town of Lodestone, Alaska).

Arriving at Lodestone, Dick meets Jackson Dalton, a lawyer of that place who is backing the two projects and planning to "clean up" on the Government in their construction. A thorough-paced scoundrel, he is known as the "Wolf of the North," who controls all the nearby courts, etc. At an interview with Dalton, Merriwell and Dalton place their cards on the table in opposition to each other.

Dalton's first move is to try to have Dick assassinated in his hotel room by one of his henchmen, Rat Sloane. But Dalton's pretty half-breed daughter, Nanook, is at once attracted to Dick, and she and Old Joe Crowfoot nip the plot in the bud and capture Sloane, who is released.

Dalton's next move is to have Dick recalled by Washington, and in this he is successful. Dick is advised from the Capitol City to quit his investigation. At the advice of Frank Merriwell, however, Dick goes ahead and plans to conduct it for the Merriwell Company.

Dick and his party start for the placer mines, to survey the rail line to the place. They are harassed on the way by hirelings of Dalton, who break up the expedition with the co-operation of Nanook in drugging their coffee, and capturing their equipment. The girl had followed along after Dick and his party, in disguise, and finally confesses her part in the drugging, claiming that she did it so that friendly Indians could carry them from their camp and out of reach of her father's henchmen.

Nanook offers to act as guide. With some misgiving on Dick's part and plenty of distrust on Old Joe Crowfoot's, the party allows Nanook to lead them. They end up in the home camp of Indians who are of Nanook's tribe, the Thlinkits, and friendly enough, but the girl again confesses she has led them far afield.

Old Joe Crowfoot has a "duel" with the head man of the Indians and outwits him in "making medicine," each against the other. The Indians leave camp. After much hesitation, Dick's party plan to leave the Indian log cabin

and try with a compass to locate the surveyed railway line. The girl refuses to go with them. She has fallen for Merriwell, but made no headway with him. Dick and party haven't gone far when Dick and Brad return, worried about Nanook. She has jumped into the river in a suicide attempt, and Brad is injured when he and Dick rescue her, in the nick of time.

Nanook is left at the cabin to nurse Brad. Dick and Old Joe Crowfoot start alone for the placer diggings. There are adventures along the trail, once a terrific fight with three Dalton hirelings in a canoe. The latter trail Merriwell and Crowfoot to Placer City, site of the terminus of the proposed rail line.

In Placer City Dick meets up with two men he had known at Yale, Dana Sands, now a newspaperman, and (Dr.) Tom Orcutt, a medical student now a doctor at Placer City (don't remember them in old Tip Top). They agree to assist Dick. Merriwell is shot by the chief of the canoemen who trailed him and Crowfoot. He is reported desperately wounded in his room in the local hotel. This is a ruse. He and one of the Yale men are out taking pictures to show the impossibility of building a right of way. One of Jackson Dalton's men reports seeing Merriwell's "ghost" in the outlands, which greatly disturbs the "Wolf of the North," for if the report is true, Dick is alive.

Dick, Crowfoot and the two Yale men start back to Lodestone, to wire report of Dick's findings, going via the Indian cabin to pick up Brad and Nanook. Both are gone, captured by Indians. Merriwell's party locate the Indians with their prisoners, charge the camp, and the redskins flee. In the fight the members of Merriwell's party get separated. Nanook hitches dog-team to sled, she and Dick and Crowfoot make it back to the Thlinkit log house. Old Joe was badly hurt in the fight with the Indians. Brad Buckhart and the others come in later. They are ready to start for Lodestone again, but a fierce winter sets in and they must wait until the river is frozen to make the trip.

When they do start, Dalton's men dog them. One, Jupe Meeker, is captured. Jackson Dalton, in the party coming downstream after Dick, catches a winter weather cold and dies. The Merriwell party reaches Lodestone. Nanook inherits all her father's considerable wealth, sees the futility of trying to win Dick's love. The story closes with Dick in Washington, where he has turned in his report advising against the rail line. He has a letter from Nanook, telling him she will come to the States and try for a college course.

This tale, in point of time following Dick Merriwell's adventures with Revolutionists in Old Mexico, was, I feel sure, also written by William Wallace Cook. It was Cook who under the pseudonym of "Hugh P. Rodman," wrote the 19 issues of Klondike Kit Library for Street & Smith, so that he was well prepared to work in a background of the Alaskan mines in a Merriwell tale.

The fifth Merriwell serial, Frank Merriwell, Jr., at Fardale, was published in 4 parts in Wide Awake Magazine, Dec. 25, 1915, through Feb. 10, 1916, and old Merriwell supporters will recall that No. 61 of New Tip Top Weekly was also entitled "Frank Merriwell, Jr. at Fardale." I wouldn't be surprised if the same man wrote both—John H. Whitson. In writing Merriwells he seemed to stick more to the type of story he'd done in All-Sports Library (Jack Lightfoot) than taking them to—well, such places as the Southwest or Alaska.

The following story has a mystery angle, but the rest of it is regular school stuff. The scene is Fardale Military Academy, the time around the Christmas holidays, 1915. World War I was then hitting its stride in Europe. During the preceding summer vacation, Prof. Abner Gunn, head of Fardale, visited Europe as an "observer" and came back with a gigantic plan to halt the war. As we know, he was not successful.

On his return he brought with him Kadir Dhin, a youth from India, servant to a British officer who commanded a regiment in India before being ordered to France to fight the Germans.

This officer, Maitland, is killed in France, and Prof. Gunn also brought back with him Maitland's daughter, Rose. An incident happening in India, wherein a sacred temple was "defiled," the death of the regimental commander, the coming of his daughter, Rose, and the Indian youth, Kadir Dhin, to Fardale, and the presence of another mysterious East Indian at the Academy, form the plot of the story.

Rose Maitland makes a "smash hit" with Chip Merriwell. Kadir Dhin is not popular at Fardale, and Chip and his chums have trouble with him at the outset. An attempt to carry away Rose from Prof. Gunn's house is foiled. The Indian youth is believed mixed up in it. Then Kadir Dhin leaves Fardale by train, taking his trunk. Owen Clancy and Villum Kess think they hear a groan from the trunk, which is taken from the train and opened. Chip is in it, almost dead, and doesn't know how he got there.

Kadir Dhin and Bully Carson are taken in tow by officers, but there is not enough evidence to hold them. More attempts to kidnap Rose, presumably to make her "pay" for the "defilement" of the temple (sounds like something from Nick Carter Weekly, "The Signal of Seven Shots," by Fred Dey). But mixed in with this is a gangup on young Merriwell to have him expelled from Fardale. It doesn't work, of course. What's most interesting here, perhaps, is that Chip has "girl trouble" for the first time, being torn between seeing Rhoda Realf, as she is visiting Fardale, and the English girl, Rose Maitland. Chip goes on sleigh rides with both girls. Out riding with Rose, they are attacked by Kadir Dhin, who has reappeared at Fardale. Chip beats him off. He vanishes and that ends a strange adventure of Chip Merriwell at Fardale.

The next Merriwell story was only 11 pages, the shortest ever published by Street & Smith, and about Dick Merriwell on his lone. Must be William Wallace Cook again, for the locale is the Lady Bird Mine, near the town of La Paz, in the American Southwest. Barney Mulloy (old Tip Top friend)

wants to purchase a gold mine but wishes Merriwell's OK before the deal is closed. Dick discovers the mine is "salted." The enraged owner tries to destroy Dick with a dynamite charge, but it opens a vein that the owner knew nothing about. So Dick, still a prisoner in the mine, writes a letter giving a glowing report and advising Barney to buy. This was published in Wide Awake Magazine, dated Feb. 25, 1916, entitled, Dick Merriwell's Counterstroke.

(to be continued)

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

Guess it's about time I got busy, and wrote up something for the Roundup, so here goes. First of all, most of you have heard the sad news of the loss of Prof. Johannson. We are all going to miss him a big lot, more than what we think, because he was forever digging up information that we all craved for, as well as adding it to the wonderful 3 volume books of the House of Beadle & Adams.

Prof. Johannsen came up here June 17, 1954. I couldn't entertain him as I would liked to have done, as James Wm. Martin of, at that time, San Francisco, Calif., was here, and it was very hard trying to entertain both at the same time.

We all went up the next day to visit with Ralph Smith, then that evening Prof. Johannsen left us, and went back home to Florida. Jim and I were asked to stay over night at Ralph's, of which we accepted. When I came down from upstairs at Ralph's, I tripped over some of Jim's rare papers, and what he didn't say to me. I got mad, which I'm very sorry I did, but he deviled me, forced me to do it, any way, we intend-

ed to head for Rockland, Maine, when we received a message not to come, as Bill had a disaster there, so I intended to come back home, but Jim said he came all the way from California to see Bill Burns and he was going to see him, so we went up to Rockland. We went to the funeral and I stayed out of sight of Bill all I could, as I didn't have the heart to meet him, but Jim went in on Bill and stayed 3 or 4 days or more. I didn't have the heart to do it, as Bill had lost his only son in an automobile accident, and the good Lord let me come home, took the State of Maine express from Portland, Maine, to Worcester, Mass., 9 miles from my home—stayed in Worcester till day break, after arriving at 2:30 a.m. Jim should have known better than to stay at Bill's. I'd been up to see Bill a number of times, and he had been down here, but I didn't have the heart to stay with him.

Coming back to Prof. Johannsen, he has a 3rd book coming out in June, too bad he couldn't have lived till it came out at least, for his whole heart was in it.

Ralph Adimari sent in saying that Oscar A. Johannsen, brother to the Prof, had died a little before Albert. He also was a member of H. H. Bro. at one time.

Mr. Sam Moskowitz writes, "I think the bibliographies are extremely well done, set up in an intelligent, functional manner and I have already found them to be of considerable value. These bibliographies may ultimately prove a sales stimulus for dime novels, since in the future, when a particular novel or boys paper is offered, a check of the bibliography will ascertain whether there is material there that is wanted. I am sure I pass up things that I normally wouldn't because I have no way of checking on the content."

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 222. W. E. Martin, 919 No. Beaudry, Los Angeles 12, Calif.
- 193. Sam Moskowitz, 340 7th Ave., West, Newark, N. J. (Correction)
- 224. Warren A. Reed, 1408 Forestdale Drive, Des Moines, Iowa (New Memb.)
- 225. Kenneth B. Butler, 1325 Burlington Road, Mendota, Ill. (New Member)
- 50. Capt. F. C. Acker, c/o M. C. Acker, 301 East 21st St., New York 10, N. Y.
(Change of address)

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HAMILTON

By W. O. G. Lofts

There died on Christmas Eve 1961 the greatest school writer for boys England has ever known. His name was Charles Hamilton, and he lived to the ripe old age of 86, and was still writing up to the time of his death. He commenced writing adventure stories in the old "Union Jack" (so recently mentioned by J. Edward Leithead) in 1894 at the age of 17, though not of Sexton Blake. His real fame came when he started penning school stories for "Pluck" in 1906 about a school called St. Jim's. 1907 he started writing about the same school for the "Gem" whilst in 1908 another school—probably the most famous, was started in the "Magnet" about the boys of Greyfriars school. He wrote millions of words about these schools under the pen-names of Frank Richards and Martin Clifford—plus other schools as well, too many to mention.

Fisher T. Fish was his American boy at the school of Greyfriars—and there was much controversy at one time, whether he truly represented the average American boy, but personally I always liked "Fishy" as he was called. He put much color and amusement at times in the tales—and Fishy was not a bad sort at all. 1940 saw most of the juvenile papers closing down through paper shortage—and the school stories were never revived. Fame came to "Frank Richards" through the medium

of T.V. when the schoolboy adventures were shown of Greyfriars in half-hour shows—and his writing of bound books on the same characters. His death was widely reported in the national press, and the whole of the collecting world in England felt his loss very deeply. A kindly, thoughtful and extremely clever writer, the world will never see the likes of such a fine author of school yarns again. Indeed many claim, including myself, that he was probably the greatest writer since Charles Dickens.

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Dime Novels — Bound Volumes — Miscellaneous

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- 1156 The Silent Band, by Noname. \$1.50
- 1172 The Demon of the Deep, by Howard DeVere. \$2.00
- 1187 Three Yankee Chums. Extra illustrated. \$2.00
- 1188 Burt, the Detective. Extra illustrated. \$1.50
- 1192 Under the Gallows, by A U. S. Detective. \$1.50
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- 1278 The Sea Fiends. (Submarine). \$2.00
- 1168 Muldoon's Flats. Extra illustrated. 48 pp. \$3.00

MISCELLANEOUS

- Chatterbox for 1923. \$2.50. (1897, lacks frontispiece). \$1.00
- Leslie's Boy's Magazine. Dec. 1882. 94 pp. No back. \$1.00
- Leslie's Fact & Fiction #1. 50c
- Leslie's Once-a-Week #1 to 8. \$2.00, the lot.
- Leslie's 10c Monthly. 1864-1865. One incomplete. 3 for \$1.
- Young Sports (story paper). Golden Weekly (Tousey story paper).
Single copies, assorted, 3 for \$2.00
- The Whole Family (story paper). #1 to 5. \$1.25, the lot.
- Beadle's The Home Magazine. March 1857. \$1.00
- Buffalo Bill. Routledge paperback 1892. 192 pp. Shaken. \$1
- Philadelphia Visitor #1 to 24 (Jan. 1835 to June 1836), several damaged pages. Bound volume. \$6.00
- The Prairie Flower. The Indian Scout. Old Peterson paperbacks of 1878. \$2.00 each.
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